

**REMARKS****Claims**

Applicant has added a new claim 20 so the total number of claims presented is twenty. Three independent base claims 1, 10 and 17 remain. After amendment, all dependent claims depend directly on one of those independent base claims. No new fees are required.

**Title**

The Examiner objected to the title. The title has been amended to be more informative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

**Specification**

Amendment to the specification corrects a typographical error.

**Claims Objections**

The Examiner's objections to the claims are addressed below.

**Claims 7, 14-16 and 19**

The Examiner objected to claims 7, 14-16 and 19 for being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Reconsideration of this objection is requested in view of the claim amendments and the following comments.

Claims 7 and 14 have been amended to depend on independent base claims 1 and 10 respectively, and to recite that the system (of their base claims 1 and 10) has no controller. Claims 15 and 16 have been amended to depend on claim 10.

Claim 19 has been amended to depend on claim 17.

Claims 6 and 13 have been amended to recite that the system (of their base claims 1 and 10) has a controller. Thus it is seen that the complementary pairs (claims 6 and 7) and (claims 13 and 14) cover the case of the presence of a controller and the absence of a controller, and that this invention's method is effective in either case. Thus understood, the Examiner's view of the absence of a controller in claims 7 and 14 is misplaced and obviated with the amended claims.

Claims 1-6, 8-13 and 15-18

The Examiner objected to claims 1-6, 8-13 and 15-18 for various grammatical points. These objections have been addressed in the present Amendment as follows.

In claims 6 and 13, "a hotswap" has been replaced with ~~the~~ hotswap--.

In claims 9 and 16, "a standard" has been replaced with ~~the~~ standard--.

In claims 1 and 10, the Examiner's suggestion of inserting ~~and~~ after ",", has been addressed by bracketing the clause preceding the ",", and deleting the ",".

In claims 3, 5, 11, 12, 15 and 17, the Examiner's objection about the lack of antecedent for "said additional communications channel" is respectfully not understood by Applicant (because of the prior recital of "connecting the boards with a communications channel in addition to that of the standard"). That said, the preamble of claim 1 (on which claims 3 and 5 depend) and the preamble of claim 10 (on which claims 11, 12, and 15 depend) have been amended to more positively recite "a communications channel" following which, "an additional communications channel" is recited.

The objections to the claims that depend on other claims, have been addressed or obviated by the amendments explained above.

Applicant has amended claim 10 to delete "middleware". Support is found in the specification at paragraph [0063]: "As mentioned above, the "middleware" depends on the complexity of the application and on performance requirements. Although the preferred embodiment uses a plurality of middleware software for a relatively complex application, it is conceivable that for a particular, simple application, the amount of middleware is so "thin" that it can be considered part of the application. Accordingly, the use of the term "middleware" herein should not be interpreted to preclude its inclusion in the term "application" in some situations. In some situations, there is no "discrete middleware" because the particular application, for its purposes, is sufficient to interact with the hardware without discrete middleware therebetween."

Applicant has added a new claim 20 to recite the remote operation of this invention's "hotswap". No new matter is involved (support is found at, for example, paragraph [0059] of the specification) and new claim 20 is an echo of claims 8 and 15.

Those claims dependent on a claim which itself was a dependent claim, have been amended to depend on an independent claim.

Finally, please change your records to reflect the new correspondence name and address:

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Respectfully,



Spectrum Signal Processing Inc.

Per: Douglas Atterbury, Director of Engineering

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